

## Freeway advisory team to address water issues

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The South Mountain Citizens Advisory Team will discuss Tuesday how the proposed freeway will affect washes, wells and rivers.

The freeway would run along the Pecos Road alignment in Ahwatukee Foothills and cut through South Mountain Park. It could alter surface and groundwater conditions when surface water flows into neighboring washes and the Salt and Gila rivers, according to an Arizona Department of Transportation report.

"There's a lot of regulatory oversight that goes into all of the issues surrounding water, everything from groundwater to runoff," said Tim Tait, community relations director for ADOT.

Wells around the freeway route, including about 20 in Ahwatukee, might have to be moved, the report showed.

"The bigger issue for the Ahwatukee area is more the management of storm water," said Tait, who is a member of the South Mountain Freeway study team. "Drainage basin needs change based on which way the freeway is constructed."

On the South side of South Mountain there are more than 50 washes that run after a rainfall that could be crossed by the proposed freeway. Sometimes those washes can be channelized to control storm water run-off and directed toward culverts so they cross under a freeway, according to the ADOT report.

Foothills HOA board member Chad Blostone, also on the advisory team, said he is concerned about whether an HOA well on Pecos Road will have to be moved when the freeway is built. The well feeds water to lakes and a golf course in the HOA, Blostone said.

"If it can't be moved, where do we get our water from?" he said. "The expense will skyrocket."

The meeting is at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Union Hall at South Mountain Community College, 7050 S. 24th St. in Phoenix.

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